

Date Mailed June 3, 1999

BEFORE THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Petition of Customers of the Ridgeway Exchange of
GTE North Incorporated for Extended Area Service With the
Madison Exchange of Ameritech Wisconsin

2180-TV-126

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING
AND
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

THIS IS A PROCEEDING TO investigate the petition of customers of the Ridgeway exchange for extended area service (EAS). On April 27, 1999, the Commission received a petition from customers of the Ridgeway exchange of GTE North Incorporated (GTE). The petition requests EAS with the Madison exchange of Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a Ameritech Wisconsin (Ameritech Wisconsin). The Ridgeway exchange is in Iowa County and is 31 miles west of Madison. It serves the villages of Ridgeway and Barneveld and surrounding areas. The petition requests local calling to Madison for customers in the Barneveld area; however, the Commission has no practical method for distinguishing Barneveld customers from those in other portions of the exchange. Therefore, the Commission will consider the entire Ridgeway exchange for purposes of this investigation.

The petition includes approximately 360 signatures and thereby satisfies the requirement of Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.05(1). The Commission, therefore, will investigate the request for EAS between the Ridgeway and Madison exchanges in accordance with the EAS rules, Wis. Admin. Code chapter PSC 167. GTE and Ameritech Wisconsin will be required to submit a study of the traffic between the respective exchanges in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.06. If the criteria of that section are satisfied, the Commission will request an economic study as provided for in Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.07, to be followed by a customer survey in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.08.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of GTE. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from GTE in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

Docket 2180-TV-126

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to get this document in a different format should contact the case coordinator listed below.

Questions on this matter may be addressed to case coordinator Tom Gross of the Commission staff at (608) 267-2337 or (800) 225-7729 or by e-mail: *grosst @psc.state.wi.us*.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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